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Department of State

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

(60)

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ACTION ARA-16

INFO	OCT-01	ADS-00	INR-10	SS-15	OIC-02	CIAE-00	DODE-00
	H-01	IO-15	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	SSO-00	SY-05	HA-06
	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-09	PA-02	DCT-02	INRE-00	ICAE-00
	SYE-00	FBIE-00	SP-02	SPRS-02	/091 W		

232211 100400Z /16

O R 100040Z MAY 81 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3748
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PAN/INTAFF
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 3525

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PINS PINT SHUM ES
SUBJECT: MINISTER OF DEFENSE STATEMENTS CONCERNING ARRESTS IN CHURCHWOMEN MURDER

THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE MAY 9 HAS CONFIRMED THE ARRESTS (BY IMPLICATION OF THE GUARDIA NACIONAL) AS SUSPECTS IN THE MURDER OF THE FOUR CHURCHWOMEN DECEMBER 2, 1980. THE MINISTER PLACES THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INFORMATION LEADING TO THE ARRESTS ON INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATORY AGENCIES, NOTABLY THE FBI THE COOPERATION OF WHICH WAS REQUESTED BY THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE COMMISSION ESTABLISHED BY THE JRG IN DECEMBER UNDER COLONEL MONTERROSA AND WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE MINISTER OF THE PRESIDENCY. ABSENT THE NECESSARY PROOF, WHICH THE MINISTER SAYS MAY BE FURNISHED BY THE USG WHICH IS CONDUCTING BALLISTIC TESTS AND COMPARISONS OF THE FINGERPRINTS OF THOSE DETAINED, THE SIX CANNOT BE PROSECUTED. THEY HAVE BEEN DETAINED AS A DEMONSTRATION OF THE DESIRE OF THE SALVADORAN ARMED FORCES TO COMPLY WITH THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES. IF SUFFICIENT PROOF IS PRODUCED, THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT THE ARMED FORCES WILL SUPPORT THE PROSECUTION OF THOSE BELIEVED GUILTY BY THE CIVIL COURTS.
CHAPIN

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CIRC
REVIEWED BY HR DATE 8 JUL 1982
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